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EXAMINER

VU, THANH T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2174

DATE MAILED: 02/19/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/540,069

Applicant(s)

ROBERTSON ET AL.

Examiner

Thanh T Vu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 12-14, 16, 17, 20-28, 31, 32 and 37-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11, 15, 18-19, 29-30, 33-36, 40-41 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Card et al. ("Card", U.S. Pat. No. 5,838,326).

Per claim 1, Card teaches a method of generating a display on a computer screen in a computer system, the method comprising: displaying a three-dimensional environment (fig. 2a); displaying at least two tasks in the three dimensional environment, each task capable of including an image of at least two windows (fig. 2a; tasks 202, 203, 220; col. 6, lines 15-20); displaying the movement of one of the tasks in the three dimensional environment in response to input from a user (fig. 3; col. 7, lines 63-67).

Claim 20 is similar in scope to claim 1 and therefore is rejected under similar rationale.

Per claim 31, Card teaches a method of generating a display on a computer screen, the method comprising: displaying a non-focus task in a three-dimensional environment, the non-focus task capable of including an image of at least two windows (fig. 2a; tasks 202, 203, 220); displaying a stage area in the three dimensional environment (fig. 2a; col. 6, lines 25-29); moving the non-focus task to the stage area based on a user input (col. 7, lines 32-39; col. 7, lines 63-67); and making the non-focus task a focus task by displaying the at least two windows such that the user can manipulate at least a portion of one window (col. 6, lines 25-42).

Per claim 32, Card teaches the method of claim 31 further comprising: before moving the non-focus task to the stage area, displaying a previous focus task in the stage area (col. 7, lines 32-39; col. 7, lines 63-67); converting the previous focus task into a converted non-focus task; and moving the converted non-focus task away from the stage area (col. 7, lines 32-39; col. 7, lines 63-67).

Per claim 37, Card teaches a computer-readable medium having computer executable components comprising: a environment display component capable of displaying a three-dimensional environment on a computer screen, the three-dimensional environment comprising at least one stage and at least one non-focus task comprising images of at least two windows (fig. 2a; focus space 201; non-focus space 202, 203, 220); a movement component capable of displaying animated movement of a non-focus task toward a stage (col. 7, lines 33-39); and a conversion component capable of converting the non-focus task into a focus task when the non-focus task reaches the stage (col. 6, lines 25-43; col. 7, lines 33-39; col. 7, lines 63-67).

Per claim 38, Card teaches the computer-readable medium of claim 37 further comprising: a focus conversion component capable of converting a previous focus task on the stage into a converted non-focus task (col. 7, lines 33-39; col. 7, lines 63-67); and wherein the movement component is capable of displaying animated movement of the converted non-focus task away from the stage (col. 7, lines 33-39).

Per claim 39, Card teaches the computer-readable medium of claim 38 wherein the focus conversion component comprises a snapshot component capable of replacing the previous focus task with an image of the previous focus task (figs. 2a and 3; col. 7, lines 33-39; col. 7, lines 63-67).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2-6, 8-9, 21-23, 25-28, and 34-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Card et al. ("Card", U.S. Pat. No. 5,838,326) in view of Marrin et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,808,613).

Claims 2-3, Card teaches the method of claim 1, but doesn't specifically teach a method for displaying a three-dimensional environment comprises displaying the three-dimensional environment from the point of view of a camera in the three-dimensional environment and a method for moving the camera in the three-dimensional environment on input from the user. However, Marrin teaches a method for displaying a three-dimensional environment comprises displaying the three-dimensional environment from the point of view of a camera in the three-dimensional environment and a method for moving the camera in the three-dimensional environment on input from the user (col. 3, lines 60-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the method as taught by Marrin in the invention of Card because it provides users navigational abilities to browse through the three-dimensional world.

1. Per claim 4, Marrin teaches the method of claim 3 wherein moving the camera comprises moving the camera to a preset location in the three-dimensional environment such that the user does not steer the camera to the location (col. 4, lines 30-35).
2. Per claim 5, Marrin teaches the method of claim 3 further comprising displaying a movement control in the three-dimensional environment and wherein moving the camera comprises moving the camera in response to the user selecting a movement control (fig. 2; items: 224, 232 and 254).
3. Per claim 6, Marrin teaches the method of claim 5 wherein displaying a movement control comprises displaying an arrow control that points in a direction of possible movement for the camera and wherein moving the camera comprises moving the camera in the direction pointed to by the arrow control when the user selects the arrow control (fig. 2; item: 232; col. 6, lines 36-44).
4. Per claim 8, Marrin teaches the method of claim 5 wherein displaying a movement control comprises displaying a home control and wherein moving the camera comprises moving the camera to a preset position in the three-dimensional environment when the user selects the home control (fig. 3; col. 5, lines 34-39).

Per claim 9, Marrin teaches the method of claim 5 wherein displaying a movement control comprises displaying overview control and wherein moving the camera comprises moving the camera to a position where the user can view the entire three-dimensional environment when the user selects the overview control (col. 5, lines 56-60).

Claim 21 is similar in scope to claims 2 and 3 and therefore is rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 22-23 and 25-27 are similar in scope to claims 5-9 and 4 respectively and therefore are rejected under similar rationale.

Per claim 28, Card teaches the computer-readable medium of claim 21 wherein the preset position is located in front of a focus task in the three-dimensional environment, the focus task comprising windows that the user can manipulate (fig. 2a; col. 6, lines 25-29).

Claims 7, 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Card et al. ("Card", U.S. Pat. No. 5,838,326) in view of Marrin et al. (U.S. Pat No. 5,808,613) and further in view of Matsuda(U.S. Pat No.6,346,956).

Per Claim 7, Card and Marrin teach the method of claim 6, but do not teach a method of displaying an image of a human figure proximate the arrow control. However, Matsuda teaches a method of using a human figure in a three-dimensional environment (fig. 9). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include a human figure proximate the arrow control in the invention of Card and Marrin because it allows a user to see his position and view point in a three-dimensional world.

Claim 24 is similar in scope to claim 7 and therefore is rejected under similar rationale.

5. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Card et al. ("Card", U.S. Pat. No. 5,838,326) in view of Marrin et al. (U.S. Pat No. 5,808,613) and further in view of Horvitz et al.("Horvitz" U.S. Pat No.5,880,733).

Claim 10, Card and Marrin teaches the method of claim 5, but do not teach the method of using a touch-sensitive input device indicative of a user touching the input device and displaying the movement control in response to the signal and the method of using a touch-sensitive input device indicative of a user not touching the input device and removing the movement control in

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response to the second signal. However, Horvitz teaches the method of using touch-sensitive input device to receive a user's input (col. 6, lines 60-65). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a touch-sensitive device as taught by Horvitz in the invention of Card and Marrin as another choice of implementation to receive signals from users.

Claims 12-14, and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Card et al. ("Card", U.S. Pat. No. 5,838,326) in view of Sugiyama et al. ("Sugiyama", U.S. Pat. No. 6,002,403). Card teaches the method of claim 1, but does not teach the method of displaying a three-dimensional environment comprises displaying a room in the three-dimensional environment by displaying a set of surfaces. However, Sugiyama teaches the method of displaying a three-dimensional environment comprises displaying a room in the three-dimensional environment by displaying a set of surfaces. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to the method as taught by Sugiyama in the invention of Card because it provides a graphical user interface which enable the user to intuitively recognize documents arranged in the 3-D space so that the user can quickly identify and interact with objects in the 3D environment.

Per claim 12, Sugiyama teaches the method of displaying a three-dimensional environment comprises displaying a room in the three-dimensional environment by displaying a set of surfaces comprising a floor (fig. 4A).

Per claim 13, Sugiyama teaches the method of displaying a room further comprises displaying a right side wall and a left side wall (fig. 4A; items: 112 and 113).

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Per claim 14, Sugiyama teaches the method of displaying a room further comprises displaying a ceiling connecting the right side wall to the left side wall (fig. 7; ceiling 114).

Per claim 16, Sugiyama teaches the method of displaying the movement of one of the tasks comprises displaying the movement of the task along one of the surfaces from the set of surfaces (figs. 4a and 5; movement of task 112 from left side wall to the center and task 111 moves from center to right side wall).

Per claim 17, Sugiyama teaches the method of displaying the movement of one of the tasks comprises displaying the movement of the task from one of the surfaces from the set of surfaces to an adjacent surface from the set of surfaces (figs. 5 and 7; items 112, 113; col. 6, lines 11-13).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-10, 12-14, 16-17, 20-28, 31, 32, and 37-39 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11, 15, 18-19, 29-30, 33-36 and 40-41 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Inquiries

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh T Vu whose telephone number is (703)-308-9119. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine L Kincaid can be reached on (703) 308-0640. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)-746-7239 for regular communications and (703)-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

T. Vu
February 6, 2003

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